STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON SENATE FLOOR RE RECENT REMARKS BY FORMER SENATOR HERBERT LEHMAN ON SEGREGATION AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, MAY 22, 1958.

MR. PRESIDENT:

A former member of this body, speaking in Washington, D. C., on May 18, before a convention of the left-wing organization known as Americans for Democratic Action, has made a statement in regard to which I feel impelled to comment.

Senator Herbert Lehman of New York is quoted in the Washington Star as having declared that "we are losing the battle of Asia, Africa, and Latin America in Little Rock, Charleston, and Richmond."

This is the same old fallacious argument that racial separation customs in the South have inspired anti-American feelings overseas.

It is quite true that there has been an increase in anti-American sentiment in many foreign countries, but the cause of this has not been the Southern policy of separate racial development, the time-tested policy which is the bulwark of good race relations.

Rather, the cause of this anti-American feeling has been the intensive drive by certain parties, pursuing their own highly questionable aims, to break down the tested Southern pattern, by forcibly mixing the races in the public schools and elsewhere, and thus inevitably creating racial tension and sometimes racial violence.

Furthermore, these politicians have not hesitated to sacrifice America's foreign relations to their own political ends. They pretend that their primary concern is with our foreign relations, when actually they are mainly interested in bringing
about racial integration. They are not even attempting to take a constructive approach toward race relations as a means of improving our foreign relations. They are using our foreign relations as a weapon to bring about racial integration in this country.

As the late Herbert Ravenel Sass recently pointed out in the Atlantic Monthly:

"We have permitted the subject of race relations in the United States to be used not as it should be used, as a weapon for America, but as a weapon for the narrow designs of the new aggressive Negro leadership in the United States. It cannot be so used without damage to this country, and that damage is beyond computation. Instead of winning for America the plaudits and trust of the colored peoples of Asia and Africa in recognition of what we have done for our colored people, our pro-Negro propagandists have seen to it that the United States appears as an international Simon Legree -- or rather a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde with the South in the villainous role."

In effect, these integration zealots are blackmailing the United States. They warn that our foreign relations will suffer if there is any resistance to their program of forced integration. Then they make quite certain that this will be the result, by giving the greatest possible and most highly distorted news coverage to any incidents that might occur, and by directing a constant barrage of anti-Southern propaganda to overseas countries.

Instead of playing up the benefits enjoyed by the Negro race in the United States -- far greater than those enjoyed by Negroes in any African country -- the anti-Southern propagandists have ground out horror stories to fan the flames of the integration crusade.

While this crude attempt to use the threat of bad foreign relations as a club to force the South to integrate has failed in
its primary purpose, it has caused grave damage to United States relations with certain foreign countries.

There is mounting evidence that the racial issues stirred up for domestic political purposes are being turned against American interests abroad. The anti-Southern propaganda, which has been circulated abroad by South-hating American politicians, has turned out to be anti-American propaganda as well. Reporting on this situation, an American correspondent in France recently commented as follows:

"At the moment when violent trouble broke out at Little Rock, the propaganda circulated by services under the control of the Administration but paid for by American taxpayers, was bitterly and aggressively partial. Such considerations as American national interests and the influence of the United States in Western Europe were ruthlessly swept aside for the sake of proclaiming to the world the purity and righteousness of the Administration. This policy did lasting harm to America as a whole.

"Here, the detestable anti-American agitation disseminated from America itself has continued to poison public opinion.

"There is much talk today among Americans themselves about the wave of hatred against them being propagated notably in France. How many stop to reflect upon the responsibility of the original Little Rock propagandists."

I might mention, Mr. President, that I was in Europe myself at the time of the Little Rock incident, and I was very much disturbed at the slant which was taken by the American newspapers on sale there, in their headlines and news stories as well as in their editorials. I was also very much upset at the tack which the United States Information Agency took in regard to this matter.

Now that we have placed the blame for the deterioration of America's foreign relations where it belongs, on the integration
propagandists; now that we have exposed the fallacy of Senator Lehman's main underlying implication—that it is the South's policy of racial separation which is responsible for anti-American feelings abroad, -- I should like to address myself to a more specific implication in the former Senator's remarks.

He speaks of this battle of Asia, Africa, and Latin America as being lost in "Little Rock, Charleston, and Richmond." Admittedly, Charleston and Richmond are two of the most notable cities on this continent, and two of the most significant cities in all the annals of American history. But I should like to know just what it is that has occurred in Charleston, or in Richmond, in recent years, that the distinguished former Senator thinks has caused the attention of the colored peoples of Asia and Africa to be riveted on those two cities? By classifying them together with Little Rock, is he implying that Charleston and Richmond are focal centers of inter-racial violence?

True, there was inter-racial violence at Little Rock, though the major violence that occurred there was committed by U. S. Army soldiers against white Southerners and by the President of the United States against a sovereign State and against the Constitution.

But what inter-racial violence has occurred in Charleston? If there has been any, during this century at least, I should like to hear of it. And when has there been any inter-racial violence in Richmond? I have not heard of any. It must exist only in the imagination of the distinguished former Senator. Perhaps he has been having nightmares about the wave of racial violence that is occurring in his own backyard and has, in his dreams, wishfully transported the locale of these disorders southward.
Certainly the depicting of the South, instead of the North, as the home of racial violence, bears no relation to reality. A distinguished Richmond editor has recently speculated, and I think correctly, that "there are more incidents of inter-racial violence on any Saturday night in Brooklyn than the whole of Virginia would experience in a year."

Yes indeed, Mr. President, if Senator Lehman is truly concerned over the effect that race tension and race violence in this country may have on our relations with foreign nations, he would do well to stop searching for inter-racial disorders in peaceful Southern cities, such as Richmond and Charleston, and turn his attention instead to the violence-ridden cities of his own State, which has one of the worst records in race relations of any State in the Union.

We all remember the horrible race riot of two years ago that broke out on a Lake steamer out of Buffalo. And we have before us now the sordid spectacle that is going on in Senator Lehman's own New York City, especially in Brooklyn: The bloody inter-racial warfare engaged in by roving gangs of delinquents of different races; the inter-racial stabbings that occur almost daily; the inter-racial rapes; the total breakdown of discipline in the integrated school system; the assigning of policemen to patrol the schools to protect the pupils and teachers; and the necessity of setting up "special schools" to handle the more outrageous and more consistent perpetrators of inter-racial violence.

No, Mr. President, it is not in the peaceful and racially-separate schools of Richmond and Charleston that students stab one another in the corridors, that teachers are assaulted by students,
that thirteen-year-old girls are raped under the basement stairs by pupils. It is in the integrated school system of New York City that these things occur.

Now, Mr. President, I know that Senator Lehman was sincere when he made his remarks about these Southern cities. I know that he is genuinely concerned about the effects of events in these cities on our foreign relations. I know, in short, that his crocodile tears are real. I am sure, then, that it will bring a flush of shame to his cheeks and a pang of regret to his heart when he stops to realize that, instead of criticizing the South for political purposes, he could have addressed his great talents to the fearful situation which exists in the crime-ridden integrated schools of New York, a situation which brings glee to our enemies and disgust to our friends abroad.

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